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Similarly, on February 24 and 26 I was able to make careful observations on other infected chawls, trying, wherever possible, to determine whether the rooms now containing cases had been infected in previous years. I am receiving every facility and every courtesy from the officers of the health department, especially in the ward where it has seemed best to take up work.

I hope to bring the matter of disinfection by hydrocyanic-acid gas, as reported by Dr. L. O. Howard in Public Health Reports for November 13, 1904, to the attention of the health officers, as being especially adapted to those chawls which are evacuated in toto. I believe it would be far more efficient in destroying vermin than the method now in use of soaking floors, walls, and ceilings with bichloride of mercury and carbolic acid. While watching a room, on February 22, which had just been disinfected with fluids as described, I saw large spiders crawl down from the walls and across the floor, still sopping wet with bichloride.

Incidence of plague in Bombay—Study of plague-infected tenement buildings.

Under date of March 5, Acting Asst. Surg. Hume reports as follows:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the first sheets of a study on the incidence of plague in Bombay City. As records for 1903 are not all available to me yet, I can not trace the progress of the disease through that year and previous years, as I propose to do gradually. I send, therefore, at this time, three diagrams illustrating the progress of plague in three wards of the city during the first two months of 1904, five observations being tabulated in each case. I am told that in previous years it has been noted that the epidemic always commenced to be severe in Ward B. The height of the epidemic here was reached in previous years earlier than in other wards. Ward B lies in about the east-central portion of Bombay Island, and consists of a thickly populated district, occupied by a rough element, careless of personal hygiene to perhaps a greater degree than in other parts of the native town. From this ward the epidemic each year has seemed to travel northward, affecting Ward E about a month later. And from Ward E the disease has usually gone farther north to Ward G.

That this progress is roughly true this year will be seen from the inclosed diagrams, which are the first of a series I propose to forward. I hope to send you a plan of the city soon, to make the arrangement of the wards clearer.

You will see in diagram 1, that the height of plague in Ward B was practically reached by the end of January, the rise since being slight. However, there had been a steady rise through each week of that month.

Diagram 2 shows that during January plague was only beginning to be serious in Ward E, and that its rise was very rapid during February, while at present writing it is the worst infected ward in the city.

Diagram 3, of Ward G, still farther north in the city, shows that during January and February the rise of plague was but slight. It has just started to be very active there, and during March and April may be expected to show very rapid progress.

Theories as to the cause for this northward march of the disease are numerous, the most reasonable being that in Ward B there is the true focus of endemicity; that from thence the natural progress of the

disease is northward, because to the south lie the European business sections, where plague could hardly gain a firm footing. To the north of Ward B lie other native sections.

I have the honor to report the mortality of Bombay as follows, for the week ended March 1:

[Population of Bombay, 776,006.]

Deaths from—	Week of—		Average of same weeks, previous five years.
	Mar. 1, 1904.	Mar. 3, 1903.	
Plague	832	1,297	997
Smallpox	14	64	70
Cholera			4
Total	1,420	2,009	2,232
Rate per 1,000 per year	95.15	134.62	146.11

Reports from Calcutta—Inspection of vessels.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Sprague, at Calcutta, reports, February 25 and March 3, as follows:

During the week ended February 20, 1904, bill of health was issued to the steamship *Scharzfels*, bound for Boston and New York with a total crew of 69, of which 42 were Lascars. The clothing and effects of these latter were disinfected and rat guards were maintained on the wharf lines. The cargo compartments were not fumigated, as the presence of jute therein rendered it dangerous to burn sulphur.

During the week ended February 27, 1904, bill of health was issued to the steamship *Wartenfels*, bound for New York with a total crew of 55, of which 31 were Lascars. The clothing and effects of these latter were disinfected. Rat guards were maintained on the wharf lines during the time that the *Wartenfels* lay at dock, and when she was clear of cargo the compartments were fumigated with sulphur to destroy vermin.

ITALY.

Report from Naples—Inspection of vessels—Campaign in Egypt against mosquitoes—Plague in Mauritius.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Eager reports, March 5, as follows: During the week ended March 5, 1904, the following ships were inspected at Naples and Palermo:

NAPLES.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.	Number of steerage passengers recommended for rejection.
Mar. 1	Perugia	New York	1,209	70	1,545	8
1	Prinz Adalbert	do	1,064	90	1,100	19
2	Nord America	do	877	70	1,225	19
3	Germania	do	1,423	100	1,550	22
4	Hohenzollern	do	722	85	922	9
5	California	do	741	40	1,117	15
5	Attivita	do	609	18	1,013	18

PALERMO.

Mar. 3	Nord America	New York	245	75	370	26
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